



29 June 2023

Tēnā koe

On 1 June 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *1./Can I please be advised on how many families with a rating of A17 or over are waiting for a 3 bedroom property on the North Shore in Auckland.*

*2./Can I please be advised where I am currently rating on the Social Housing register waiting list for a 3 bedroom property (for the areas I have put forward to the MSD) in comparison to these other applicants.*

*I understand that the Social Housing Register can be ever changing due to new applicants and their individual needs. I am just wanting a screenshot of time. So providing the date that this information was sourced on will be understood to be just that, only a screenshot of time.*

*I understand that when a house (for the specific amount of bedrooms) is available, that a list of a few suitable people (needing that specific amount of bedrooms) from the register is given to the housing provider in charge of that property and its not just the person with the highest rating.*

The demand for housing across New Zealand is growing and more people are experiencing a severe and immediate need. When New Zealanders are in need of public housing, their needs are recorded on either the Housing Register or the Transfer Register. The combined register is referred to as the Public Housing Register. The Housing Register shows people who are not currently in public housing but who have been assessed as eligible for public housing. The Transfer Register shows people already in public housing but who have applied to be rehoused.

The Public Housing Register is dynamic rather than static, and changes as people's circumstances and situations change. Placing people and families into houses is about matching them with the right house in the area they want to live. This includes ensuring the family has the right number of bedrooms, is close to essential services such as schools, and that the accommodation meets

any disability needs if appropriate. Those assessed as having a greater need for housing will be prioritised higher. As people's needs change, their priority on the Register may also change. As such, the length of time spent on the Register awaiting housing can vary significantly.

Applicants on the Social Housing Register are assigned a priority rating according to their level of housing need. A20 is the highest priority rating with B1 being the lowest. As you are aware, your priority rating is A17.

Please see **Table One** below, which provides the number of Social Housing applicants with a priority rating of A17 or higher for three-bedroom homes in each of the postcodes for the North Shore, as at 31 May 2023.

Please note that applicants may have expressed a desire to live in multiple postcodes, and so may be represented under multiple location categories.

**Table One:** Number of Social Housing applicants with a priority rating of A17 or higher for three-bedroom homes located in North Shore postcodes as at 31 May 2023.

Priority / Position		Letting Area Requested – North Shore											
		0620	0622	0624	0626	0627	0629	0630	0632	0792	0793	0794	Total
A	20	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	3	3	3	6
	19	21	21	15	18	21	18	15	18	12	15	9	24
	18	24	24	24	24	27	24	24	24	12	15	12	27
	17	24	24	24	27	27	27	24	27	12	15	15	36
<b>Total</b>		<b>75</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>90</b>

## Notes

- This includes clients on both the Housing and Transfer Register.
- This data only includes clients of Priority A17 or higher.
- This is a count of primary applicants. An applicant can appear in more than one requested letting area if they have selected it.
- The total displayed is the distinct number of primary applicants and columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row totals.
- To protect confidentiality the Ministry of Social Development uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.
- These data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table.
- A value of one or two will always be rounded three.

- The impact of applying random rounding is that columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row totals.
- The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.

At any given time, you may be ranked alongside a number of other applicants with the same priority rating, but further ranking is not done beyond this. As such, the Ministry is unable to advise where you are placed in comparison to other applicants on the Social Housing Register. Therefore, Question Two of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by the Ministry and I have no grounds to believe that the information is held by another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry's website. Your personal details will be deleted, and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui



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